

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-8 are canceled, without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter of these claims. Claims 9 and 10 are added. Support for claims 9 and 10 is found in original claims 1 and 3, and original claims 1, 2 and 8, respectively. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3 and 8 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

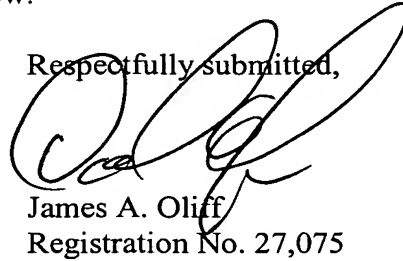
Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being anticipated by or unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,908,941 to Fukuda et al. (hereinafter "Fukuda"). The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Claim 9 recites the features of original claims 1 and 3 and claim 10 recites the features of original claims 1, 2 and 8. Based on the indication of allowability of claims 3 and 8, claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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